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Ethmia terminella Fletch. (Lep.: Oecophoridae. Ethmiinae) in Essex

On 7-8th July 1989 at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve (four miles south of Colchester) I was inundated by a blizzard of small white moths which I identified as being *Yponomeuta evonymella* L. A.M. Emmet discusses the broader aspects of this invasion elsewhere in this issue, so it is only necessary here to say that during the peak period of activity, approximately an hour either side of midnight, I counted 500 on one groundsheet alone. There were many more examples still in the air, at rest away from the groundsheet, and at the other traps and lamps I had set up. The night was ideal for recording with a good number of unusual species (for Essex) present, such as *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* D. & S. and *Oligia versicolor* Borkh. However, my eyes alighted on an *evonymella* that looked obviously different. This in fact turned out to be *Ethmia terminella* Fletch., a new county record. The current British distribution for this species is restricted to the Dungeness area, Kent, with an extension of range into East Sussex. In Europe its range includes southern Scandinavia and the Low Countries. The larval foodplant, *Echium vulgare,* is no longer found in north-east Essex, and it is possible that the *evonymella* and *terminella* shared a common origin — perhaps north-west Europe. It seems clear that a large scale movement of some kind occurred around this period. My thanks to A.M. Emmet and D.J.L. Agassiz.— BRIAN GOODEY, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 4ET.

A second brood of the Dotted Footman, _Pelosia muscerda_ Hufn. (Lep.: Arctiidae) in 1989

Whilst staying in Norfolk on 1st August 1989, among a small number of moths which came to an actinic tube on a sheet, was a female Dotted Footman, which laid about 30 eggs over a period of several hours. These soon hatched and most fed up and owing, perhaps, to the hot summer produced over 20 moths in September. I gave them lichens and algae, but they fed mainly on dead sycamore leaves.— S.M. JACKSON, 31 Hillfield, Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 0ND.

Some notable migrants taken in the Dungeness area, Kent, during 1989

During another year of much immigrant activity in the Dungeness and Greatstone area of S.E. Kent, the following species were the most noteworthy recorded from the three permanent mv traps in the area: *Scopula rubiginata* Hufn. male, Greatstone 17.8.89; *Mythimna l-album* L. male, Greatstone 23.10.89; *Mythimna loreyi* Dup. female, Dungeness,

30.10.89; *Heliothis armigera* Hb. Dungeness, 23.10.89,Greatstone 25 and 26.9.89 and 22.10.89; *Deltote bankiana* Fab. male, Greatstone, 7.7.89.

The record of *M. l-album* is of interest as it is one of four individuals that I have heard of being taken in the Dungeness area during 1989. As far as I am aware, there were only two Kent records prior to this year (Dungeness 1934 and Dymchurch 1988); the spate of records in 1989 possibly suggests an easterly spread of range from the species' south coast breeding sites. This theory has some support from the number of recent records from coastal areas in East Sussex.— S.P. CLANCY, Delhi Cottage, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NE.

Presumed occurrence of late broods in Lepidoptera in 1989

I read with interest the recent notes by E.G. Smith (*antea* **101**: 36) and David Young (*antea* **101**: 197) on the possibility of a second brood in the pyralid *Cynaeda dentalis* D. & S., as this species certainly produced a second brood at Dungeness, Kent, in 1989 with specimens, a majority of them fresh but smaller in size than normal first-brood specimens, occurring on most nights between 4th and 24th September after a period of nearly two months without an adult being seen in the Dungeness area.

Several other species of lepidoptera, of which no reference could be found to a second brood in the literature or mentioned only as being of very irregular or occasional occurrence, also produced specimens of an apparently late brood in S.E. Kent. They invariably involved fresh specimens being taken after the last worn specimens of first brood had long since expired. It should also be noted that many of the first broods were earlier than usual in the exceptionally mild conditions of spring/early summer 1989.

Late species included *Pedasia contaminella* Hübn. (13.9 - 26.9); *Oncocera semirubella* Scop. (3.9); *Pyralis farinalis* L. (23.9); *Euproctis similis* Fues. (23.9 - 11.10); *Tyria jacobaeae* L. (31.10); *Agrotis exclamationis* L. (19.8 - 13.10); *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. (18.10 - 30.10); *Ceramica pisi* L. (19.8 - 21.8); *Mythimna comma* L. (30.9); and *Mythimna favicolor* Barr. (17.8). (Note: *favicolor* is not known to breed at Dungeness, but this and other salt-marsh species turn up from time to time.)

Whilst it may be argued that the odd retarded individual may occur after the usual emergence time, these records mostly refer to a number of individuals, often small specimens, occurring in the main two to three months after the earlier brood. It would be interesting to learn how frequent and widespread additional broods were. I understand, for example, that late specimens of *dentalis, semirubella* and *sambucaria* occurred in Sussex and Dorset (M. Parsons), and *similis* produced a second brood in Somerset (J.C. Lidgate).— S.P. CLANCY, Delhi Cottage, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NE.